

The Board has duly considered the matter and concludes that the case is not in posture for a decision. OWCP procedures provide that cases should be doubled when a new injury is reported for an employee who previously filed an injury claim for a similar condition and further indicates that the cases should be doubled as soon as the need to do so becomes apparent.³ As the hearing representative referenced appellant's knee claim in claim number xxxxxx601, the Board concludes that OWCP should have doubled the case files in accordance with its procedures. As the record before the Board does not contain evidence from the claim number xxxxxx601 referenced by the hearing representative, the Board is unable to properly address and adjudicate the matter. On remand, OWCP should combine the present case record, claim number xxxxxx096, with claim number xxxxxx601. After combining these two case records, it should consider the evidence contained in the combined case record and, following any necessary further development, issue an appropriate merit decision on the issue of whether appellant is entitled to compensation for disability beginning October 19, 2013.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the November 25, 2014 decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs be set aside and the case remanded to OWCP for further proceedings consistent with this order of the Board.

Issued: August 3, 2015
Washington, DC

Christopher J. Godfrey, Chief Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

Patricia H. Fitzgerald, Deputy Chief Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

Colleen Duffy Kiko, Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

³ Federal (FECA) Procedure Manual, Part 2 -- Claims, *Doubling Case Files*, Chapter 2.400.8(c)(1) (February 2000); *see T.M.*, Docket Nos. 09-1090 & 09-2226 (issued March 8, 2010).